

# SENATE NO. 123

## **AN ACT** PROVIDING FOR INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR VISION SCREENING FOR CHILDREN

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled,  
And by the authority of the same, as follows:*

1 SECTION 1.

2 Chapter 32A of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after section 17H the following  
3 section:

4 Section 17I. The commission shall provide to any active or retired employee of the commonwealth  
5 who is insured under the group insurance commission coverage for the cost of a vision screening for  
6 children conducted within 12 months prior to entering kindergarten, pursuant to the first paragraph of  
7 section 57 of Chapter 71, as most recently amended by Chapter 181 of the Acts of 2004. The vision  
8 screening shall be conducted by personnel approved by the department of public health and trained in  
9 vision screening techniques developed by the department of public health in consultation with the  
10 department of education.

11 For children who fail to pass the vision screening and for children diagnosed with neurodevelopmental  
12 delay, the commission shall provide coverage of a comprehensive eye examination performed by a

13 licensed optometrist or ophthalmologist chosen by the child's parent or guardian indicating any  
14 pertinent diagnosis, treatment, prognosis, recommendation and evidence of follow-up treatment, if  
15 necessary.

16 SECTION 2. Chapter 118E of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after section 10A the  
17 following section:

18 Section 10B. The division shall provide coverage for the cost of a vision screening for children  
19 conducted within 12 months prior to entering kindergarten, pursuant to the first paragraph of section  
20 57 of Chapter 71, as most recently amended by Chapter 181 of the Acts of 2004. The vision screening  
21 shall be conducted by personnel approved by the department of public health and trained in vision  
22 screening techniques developed by the department of public health in consultation with the department  
23 of education.

24 For children who fail to pass the vision screening and for children diagnosed with neurodevelopmental  
25 delay, the division shall provide coverage of a comprehensive eye examination performed by a  
26 licensed optometrist or ophthalmologist chosen by the child's parent or guardian indicating any  
27 pertinent diagnosis, treatment, prognosis, recommendation and evidence of follow-up treatment, if  
28 necessary.

29 SECTION 3. Chapter 175 of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after section 110I the  
30 following section:

31 Section 110M. Any policy, contract, agreement, plan, or certificate of insurance issued, delivered, or  
32 renewed within the Commonwealth shall cover a vision screening for children conducted within 12  
33 months prior to entering kindergarten, pursuant to the first paragraph of section 57 of Chapter 71, as

34 most recently amended by Chapter 181 of the Acts of 2004. The vision screening shall be conducted  
35 by personnel approved by the department of public health and trained in vision screening techniques  
36 developed by the department of public health in consultation with the department of education.

37 For children who fail to pass the vision screening and for children diagnosed with neurodevelopmental  
38 delay, coverage shall be provided for a comprehensive eye examination performed by a licensed  
39 optometrist or ophthalmologist chosen by the child's parent or guardian indicating any pertinent  
40 diagnosis, treatment, prognosis, recommendation and evidence of follow-up treatment, if necessary.

41 SECTION 4. Chapter 176A of the General Laws is hereby further amended by inserting after section  
42 8V the following section:-

43 Section 8W. Any policy, contract, agreement, plan, or certificate of insurance issued, delivered, or  
44 renewed within the Commonwealth shall cover a vision screening for children conducted within 12  
45 months prior to entering kindergarten, pursuant to the first paragraph of section 57 of Chapter 71, as  
46 most recently amended by Chapter 181 of the Acts of 2004. The vision screening shall be conducted  
47 by personnel approved by the department of public health and trained in vision screening techniques  
48 developed by the department of public health in consultation with the department of education.

49 For children who fail to pass the vision screening and for children diagnosed with neurodevelopmental  
50 delay, coverage shall be provided for a comprehensive eye examination performed by a licensed  
51 optometrist or ophthalmologist chosen by the child's parent or guardian indicating any pertinent  
52 diagnosis, treatment, prognosis, recommendation and evidence of follow-up treatment, if necessary.

53 SECTION 5. Chapter 176B of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after section 4V the  
54 following section:-

55 Section 4W. Any policy, contract, agreement, plan, or certificate of insurance issued, delivered, or  
56 renewed within the Commonwealth shall cover a vision screening for children conducted within 12  
57 months prior to entering kindergarten, pursuant to the first paragraph of section 57 of Chapter 71, as  
58 most recently amended by Chapter 181 of the Acts of 2004. The vision screening shall be conducted  
59 by personnel approved by the department of public health and trained in vision screening techniques  
60 developed by the department of public health in consultation with the department of education.

61 For children who fail to pass the vision screening and for children diagnosed with neurodevelopmental  
62 delay, coverage shall be provided for a comprehensive eye examination performed by a licensed  
63 optometrist or ophthalmologist chosen by the child's parent or guardian indicating any pertinent  
64 diagnosis, treatment, prognosis, recommendation and evidence of follow-up treatment, if necessary.

65 SECTION 6. Chapter 176G of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after section 4N the  
66 following section:-

67 Section 4O. Any policy, contract, agreement, plan, or certificate of insurance issued, delivered, or  
68 renewed within the Commonwealth shall cover a vision screening for children conducted within 12  
69 months prior to entering kindergarten, pursuant to the first paragraph of section 57 of Chapter 71, as  
70 most recently amended by Chapter 181 of the Acts of 2004. The vision screening shall be conducted  
71 by personnel approved by the department of public health and trained in vision screening techniques  
72 developed by the department of public health in consultation with the department of education.

73 For children who fail to pass the vision screening and for children diagnosed with neurodevelopmental  
74 delay, coverage shall be provided for a comprehensive eye examination performed by a licensed

- 75 optometrist or ophthalmologist chosen by the child's parent or guardian indicating any pertinent
- 76 diagnosis, treatment, prognosis, recommendation and evidence of follow-up treatment, if necessary.